



A.D. 1853. N° 794.

S P E C I F I C A T I O N

OF

JAMES FINDLOW.

BEDS OR COUCHES FOR SICK PERSONS.

L O N D O N :

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Beds or Couches for Sick Persons.

LETTERS PATENT to James Findlow, of Manchester, in the County of Lancaster, Joiner, for the Invention of “**IMPROVEMENTS IN BEDS OR COUCHES FOR SICK PERSONS.**”

Sealed the 29th September 1853, and dated the 4th April 1853.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION left by the said James Findlow at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his Petition, on the 4th April 1853.

I, JAMES FINDLOW, of Manchester, in the County of Lancaster,
5 Joiner, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention for
“**IMPROVEMENTS IN BEDS OR COUCHES FOR SICK PERSONS**” to be as
follows:—

My improvements consist in constructing beds or couches so that a
portion or portions thereof may be moved from beneath the patient
10 for the purpose of adapting a convenience, or for the performance of
operations, or for other purposes. For instance, I form a circular
orifice in the bed or couch and fill the space with a detached piece,
stuffed so as to constitute a part of the bed or couch, and covered with
a portion of sheet, &c., if desired; this detached piece I support by
15 suitable apparatus, and upon which, therefore, the patient may lie; such

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supports, however, are capable of being withdrawn at pleasure, so as to allow the detached part of the bed to be lowered, and to be replaced by a pan or any proper convenience, which, being then raised to the former situation of the moveable part of the bed, will be brought to the use of the patient without the necessity of raising him. In like 5 manner, other moveable portions may be adapted for the purpose of gaining access to other parts of the body, or they may be applied in sufficient number to enable an entire change of the bed or couch to be made by removing them one after the other, and substituting at each removal a fresh portion. 10

SPECIFICATION in pursuance of the conditions of the Letters Patent, filed by the said James Findlow, in the Great Seal Patent Office, on the 4th October 1853.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, JAMES FINDLOW, of Manchester, in the County of Lancaster, Joiner, 15 send greeting.

WHEREAS Her most Excellent Majesty Queen Victoria, by Her Letters Patent, bearing date the Fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, in the sixteenth year of Her reign, did, for Herself, Her heirs and successors, give and grant 20 unto me, the said James Findlow, Her especial licence that I, the said James Findlow, my executors, administrators, and assigns, or such others as I, the said James Findlow, my executors, administrators, and assigns, should at any time agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times thereafter during the term therein expressed, 25 should and lawfully might make, use, exercise, and vend, within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, an Invention for "**IMPROVEMENTS IN BEDS OR COUCHES FOR SICK PERSONS,**" upon the condition (amongst others) that I, the said James Findlow, by an instrument in writing under my hand and 30 seal, should particularly describe and ascertain the nature of the said Invention, and in what manner the same was to be performed, and

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cause the same to be filed in the Great Seal Patent Office within six calendar months next and immediately after the date of the said Letters Patent.

NOW KNOW YE, that I, the said James Findlow, do hereby
5 declare the nature of my said Invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement and accompanying drawing (that is to say):

My improvements consist in constructing beds or couches so that a
10 portion or portions thereof may be moved from beneath the patient for the purpose of adapting a convenience, or for the performance of operations, or for other purposes. For instance, I form a circular orifice in the bed or couch, and fill the space with a detached piece stuffed so as to constitute a part of the bed or couch, and covered with
15 a portion of sheet, &c., if desired; this detached piece I support by suitable apparatus, and upon which, therefore, the patient may lie. Such supports, however, are capable of being withdrawn at pleasure, so as to allow the detached part of the bed to be lowered, and to be replaced by a pan, or any proper convenience, which, being then raised
20 to the former situation of the moveable part of the bed, will be brought to the use of the patient without the necessity of raising him. In like manner, other moveable portions may be adapted for the purpose of gaining access to other parts of the body; or they may be applied in sufficient number to enable an entire change of the bed
25 or couch to be made by removing them one after the other, and substituting at each removal a fresh portion. And in order that my Invention may be fully understood, I have appended to this my Specification a drawing, shewing a method by which the same may be carried into practical application. Fig. 1, is a longitudinal section
30 of the bed; Fig. 2, a plan view of the framework of the same; and Fig. 3, a transverse section; in all of which Figures similar letters of reference denote the like parts. The framework of the bedstead of any ordinary construction is shewn at *a*, but provided with an orifice at *b*, surrounded by a metal casing *c*, secured by a flange to the laths
35 or framework, a similar orifice being also formed through the bed or

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mattress. Attached to the under side of the bedstead is a bracket *d*,
 to which is fixed a vertical rod *e*, and upon it is mounted, so as to be
 capable of sliding up or down, an arm *f*. To this arm is attached
 a cord *g*, which, after passing over a guide pulley *h*, and another *i*,
 carries a weight *j*. Upon the outward end of the arm *f*, is mounted 5
 a table *k*, corresponding in shape to the orifice *a*; by placing the hand
 therefore under the bedstead, the arm *f*, and with it table, may be
 raised, so as to cause it to occupy a position within the orifice *a*, and
 by which means anything may be raised so as to constitute a portion of
 the surface of the bed. According to the position shewn in the 10
 drawing, the arm *f*, has been lowered, and a portion *l*, of the bed
 carried away with it; if it be now desired to adapt a pan or other
 convenience for the use of the patient, the portion of bed *l*, is
 removed from the table *k*, and the pan placed there in its stead, in
 order to facilitate which the arm *f*, is turned upon its centre rod *e*, so 15
 as to bring the table from underneath the bed. The pan having been
 applied, the arm *f*, is turned back and then raised, by which means the
 pan will occupy a place within the orifice *a*, formerly supplied by the
 portion *l*, of the bed, and become adapted for the patient's use without
 the necessity of removing him; the weight *j*, and pressure exerted 20
 by the arm *f*, against the rod *e*, being sufficient to retain the parts in
 this situation. In order to regulate the turning back of the arm *f*, to
 the proper distance, a rod *m*, is adapted to the bracket *d*, so as to act as
 a stop. When the pan has been used, the arm *f*, may be lowered, and
 the portion *l*, of bed again adapted, raised within the orifice *a*, and 25
 complete the surface of the bed. If it be desired to gain access to the
 patient for the application of plasters, or for other such purposes, then,
 of course, it will not be necessary to remove the portion *l*, of the bed
 from the table. In the accompanying drawing, I have shown a
 method of raising the head of the patient, which I have found of 30
 advantage. The head part of the bedstead is a moveable part *n*, framed
 together, and turning upon centres *o*; to this framework are attached
 quadrants *p*, their lower end being connected to cords *q*, which, after
 passing over guide pulleys *r*, are fastened to a shaft *s*. Upon one end
 of this shaft is a ratchet wheel *t*, to the teeth of which is adapted a 35

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detaining click *u*, and it is also provided with a winch handle *v*; by turning this, therefore, the cord *q*, will become wound upon the shaft *s*, and the quadrants, together with the head part of the bed, raised to any desired height, the position shewn in the drawing, for instance; and it will be retained in that situation by the click *u*. A turning of the shaft in the reverse direction (the click being removed) will, of course, lower the quadrants, and the portion of bed attached thereto.

Having thus described and ascertained the nature of my said
10 Invention, and the manner of carrying the same into effect, I desire it to be understood that although I have, for the sake of illustration, described a certain arrangement and construction of apparatus, I do not confine myself thereto, as many modifications and extensions of the principle may be adapted, some of which I have mentioned in the
15 introduction to this my Specification. The shape of orifice shown is that adapted for a pan, but it is evident it may be of any form, according to the object intended in gaining access to the patient; and the particular part of the bed to be provided with the orifice will also be regulated thereby. And although I have shown a mechanical
20 apparatus for removing a portion of the bed, such apparatus is not indispensable, as the moveable part might be applied and removed by hand, and secured in its place by tying or other simple means. In conclusion, I desire it to be understood that I claim, as secured to me, so constructing beds or couches that a portion or portions thereof
25 may be moved from beneath the patient for adapting a convenience, for the performance of operations, or for other purposes.

In witness whereof, I, the said James Findlow, have hereunto set my hand and seal, the Third day of October, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

30

JAMES FINDLOW. (L.S.)

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FIG. 1.

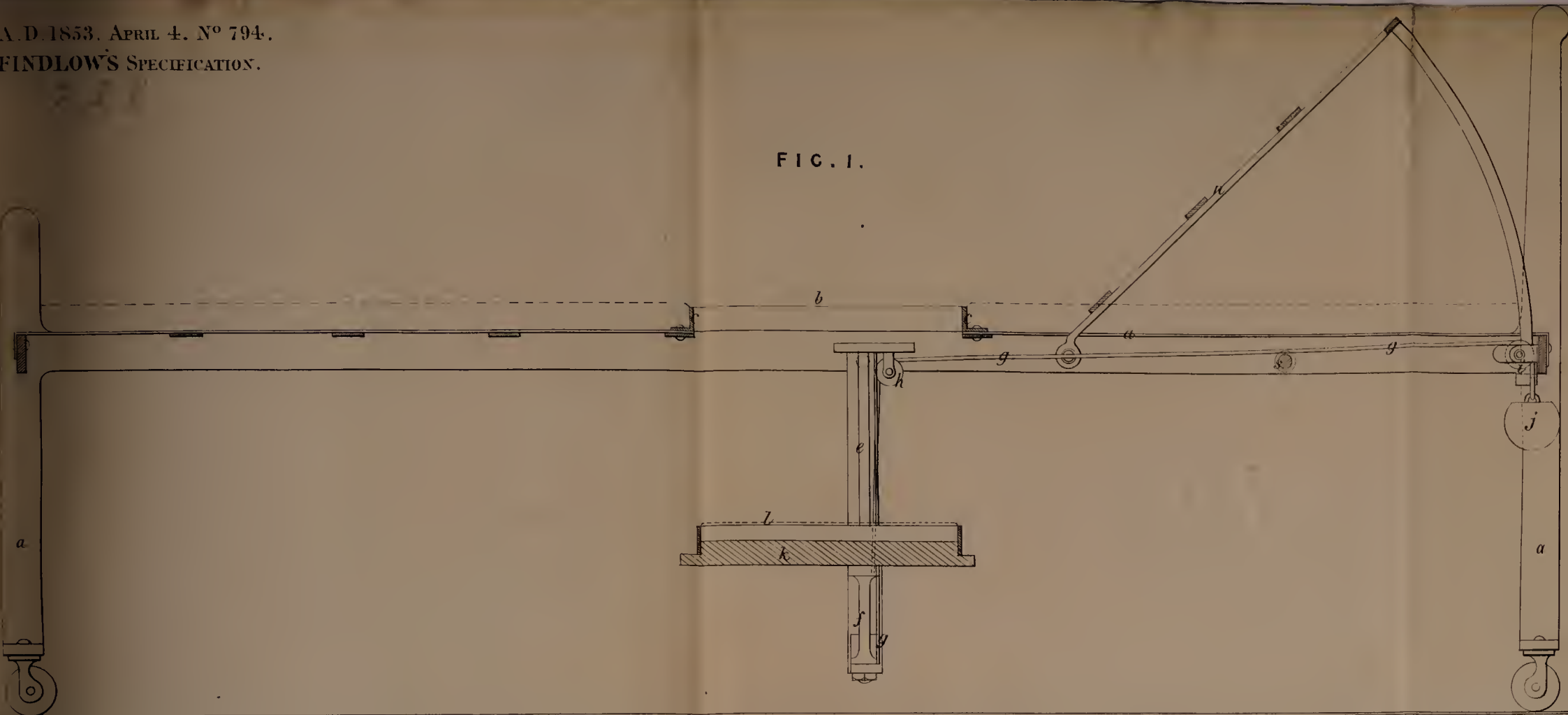


FIG. 3.

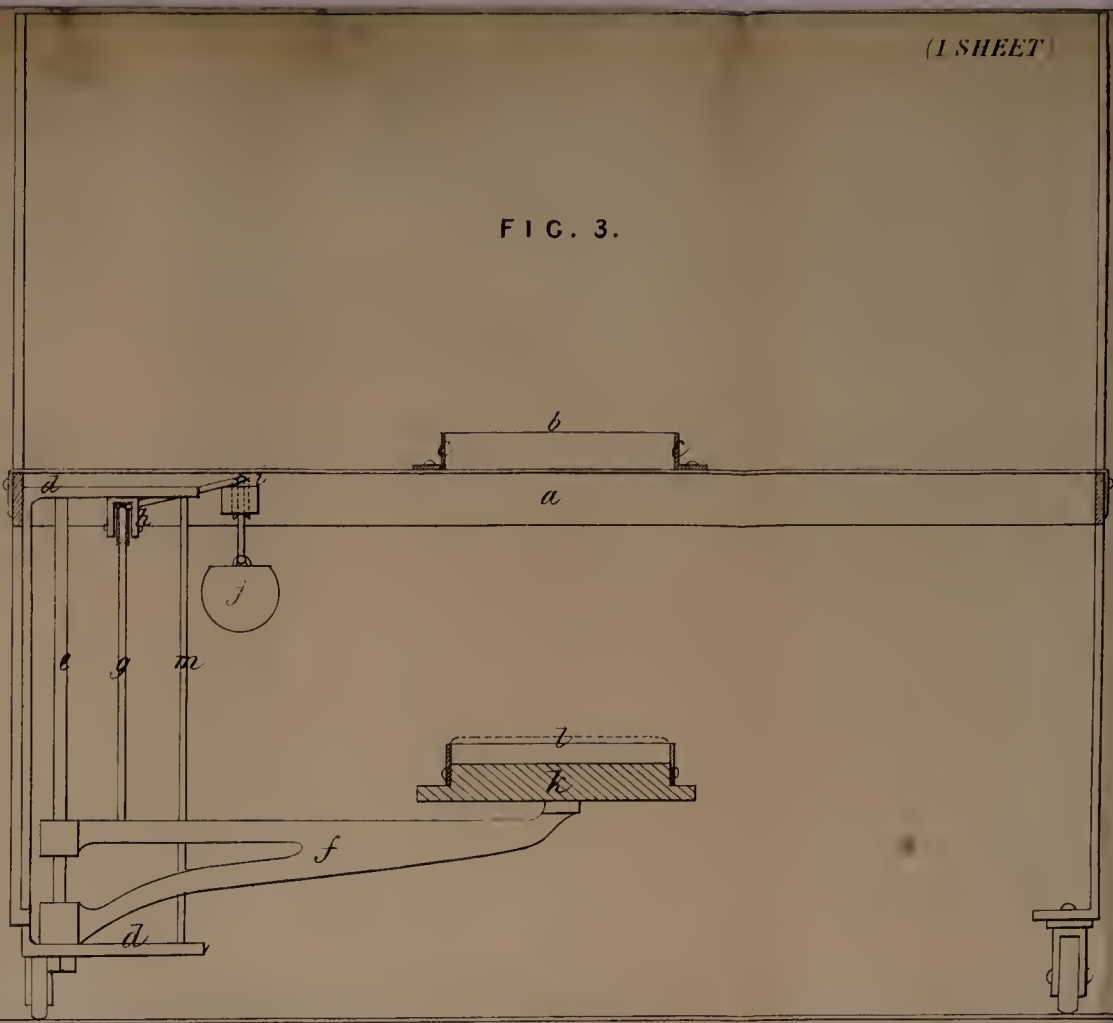
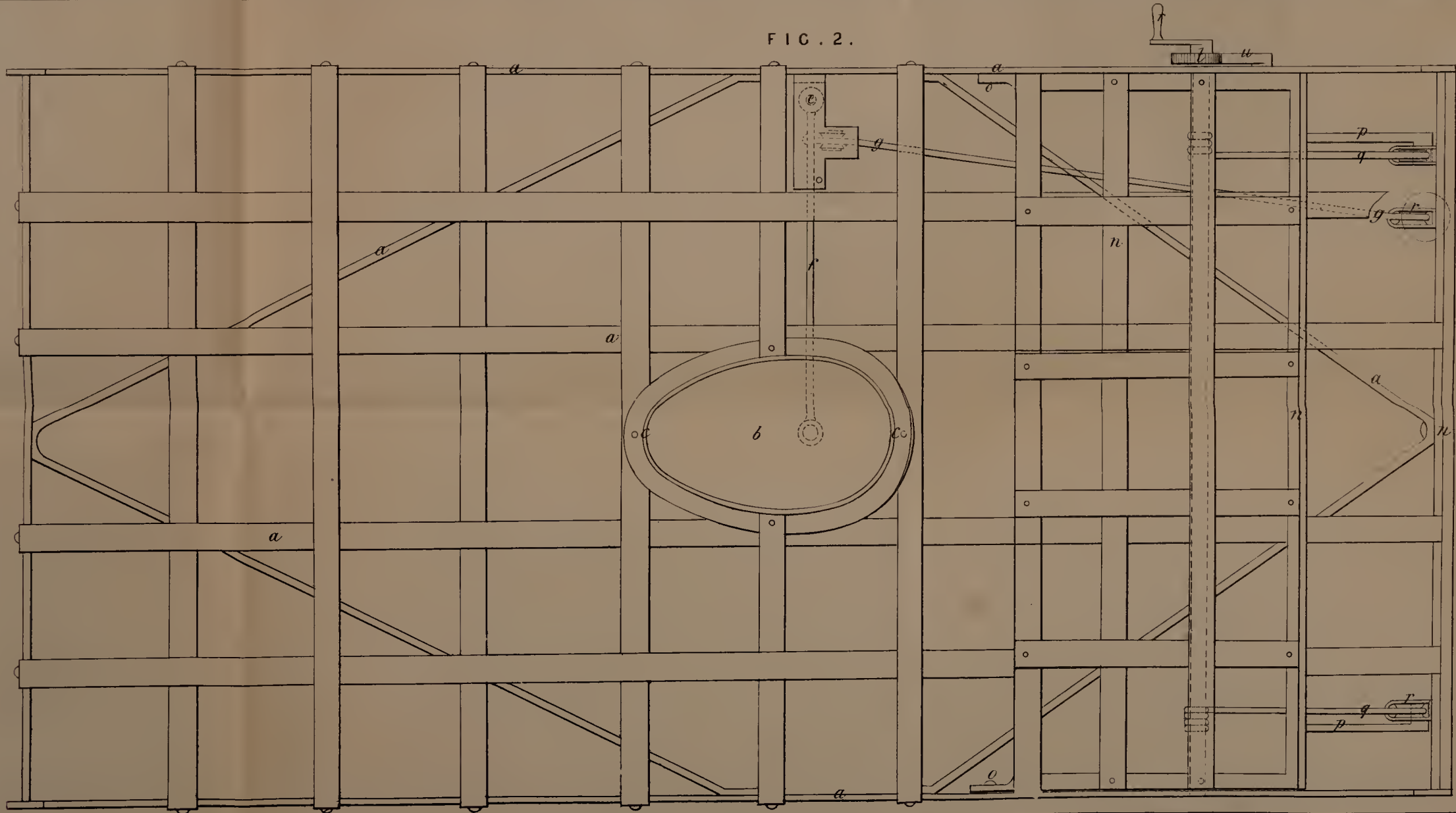


FIG. 2.



The filed drawing is not colored.

Maitly & Sons, lith.

